

REMARKS

Examiner's comments in the Office Action marked "FINAL" and dated November 1, 2007 have been read and carefully considered by Applicants. In view of such comments, Applicants have herein amended claims 1 and 4-20. Since claims 2 and 3 have been previously canceled and since no other claims have been altogether canceled or newly added herein by Applicants, claims 1 and 4-20 thus remain in Applicants' present Application for Examiner's consideration.

At the present time, it is Applicants' good faith belief that claims 1 and 4-20, as presented herein, are both novel and non-obvious in view of all known prior art and that the claims properly comply with all applicable statutory requirements. Therefore, Applicants respectfully aver that the claims now place the present Application in a condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification:

In the present Amendment, Applicants have amended original paragraphs 0012, 0014, 0015, 0020, 0022, 0028, 0031, 0032, 0035, 0037, 0045, 0046, 0047, 0048, 0050, 0055, 0060, 0061, and 0062 in the written specification of the Application. (See amended paragraphs of the specification as set forth hereinabove.) In general, these paragraphs in the specification have largely been amended so as to merely correct punctuation, grammar, or spelling errors and also help improve overall textual clarity in the Application. Therefore, in making such amendments to the specification, Applicants maintain that no new matter has been impermissibly added to the present Application.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the amendments to the specification be entered by Examiner.

Amendments to the Drawings:

Also, in the present Amendment, Applicants request entry of Figures 1, 4, and 5 as amended herein. (See REPLACEMENT SHEETS for Figures 1, 4, and 5 submitted herewith.) In Figure 1 as amended, the word phrase "Object Detection Senor" associated with numerical feature designation "16" has been replaced with the word phrase "Object Detection Sensor."

Support in the written specification for making such an amendment to Figure 1 can be found in paragraphs 0033-0035. Therefore, in making such an amendment to Figure 1, Applicants respectfully maintain that no new matter has been impermissibly added to the present Application.

Furthermore, in Figure 4 as amended, numerical feature designation "56" has been added by Applicants. Support in the written specification for making such an amendment to Figure 4 can be found in paragraph 0050. Therefore, in making such an amendment to Figure 4, Applicants again respectfully maintain that no new matter has been impermissibly added to the present Application.

Lastly, in Figure 5 as amended, original numerical feature designation "54" has been replaced with numerical feature designation "58." Support in the written specification for making such an amendment to Figure 5 can be found in paragraph 0051. Therefore, in making such an amendment to Figure 5, Applicants again maintain that no new matter has been impermissibly added to the present Application.

Rejections of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

In the Office Action, Examiner rejected claims 1 and 4-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated, and therefore rendered unpatentable, by United States Patent Number 7,000,721, which was issued to Ryoichi Sugawara *et al.* on February 21, 2006 (hereinafter "Sugawara").

In response, Applicants have herein amended claims 1 and 4-20 for Examiner's further consideration. (See amended claims as set forth hereinabove.) In particular, in independent claims 1, 19, and 20 as amended, Applicants therein claim a "vehicle safety system" useful "for enhancing visibility of a roadway," a "headlight system" utile "for enhancing visibility of a roadway," and a "method of operating a headlight system" useful "for adaptively illuminating a roadway to enhance visibility," respectively. (See, for example, specification paragraphs 0002, 0003, 0009, 0011, and 0054 and also Figures 1-5 as originally filed by Applicants for subject matter support of independent claims 1, 19, and 20 as amended herein.) In stark contrast to Applicants' presently claimed invention(s), Sugawara merely discloses "an optical detection device" onboard a vehicle that is utile to detect any other vehicles that may surround the

vehicle. (Sugawara, see column 1, lines 50-67; column 2, lines 1-67; and Figures 4, 7, and 11.) More particularly, the optical detection device disclosed by Sugawara, though houseable within a vehicle's blinker, reflector, or tail lamp, is generally not utile for illuminating and enhancing visibility of a roadway. (Sugawara, see column 3, lines 1 and 2; column 9, lines 31-35; column 12, lines 1 and 2; column 13, lines 30-33; and column 15, lines 5-10.) Instead, the optical detection device as disclosed by Sugawara is merely operable to detect other vehicles via laser light beams.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully aver that Sugawara does not anticipate their proposed invention(s) as presently claimed herein. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's rejections of claims 1 and 4-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

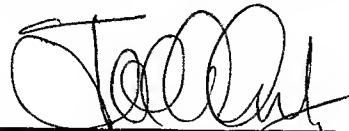
In view of the claims as amended and also the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 4-20 are all both novel and non-obvious with respect to the disclosure and teachings of Sugawara and that the claims now properly comply with all statutory requirements. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's claim rejections in the Office Action be withdrawn and that a Notice of Allowance be issued for all claims 1 and 4-20.

Also, together with this Amendment, payment of a three month extension of time and a "Request for Continued Examination" (RCE) are being submitted. Receipt and entry thereof by Examiner is respectfully requested by Applicants. Furthermore, the Examiner is requested to charge the fee for the RCE to Deposit Account No. 06-1510 along with any other fee(s) necessary to maintain Examiner's consideration of the present Application.

Lastly, should Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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